

October 23rd

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An  
Inaugural Essay.

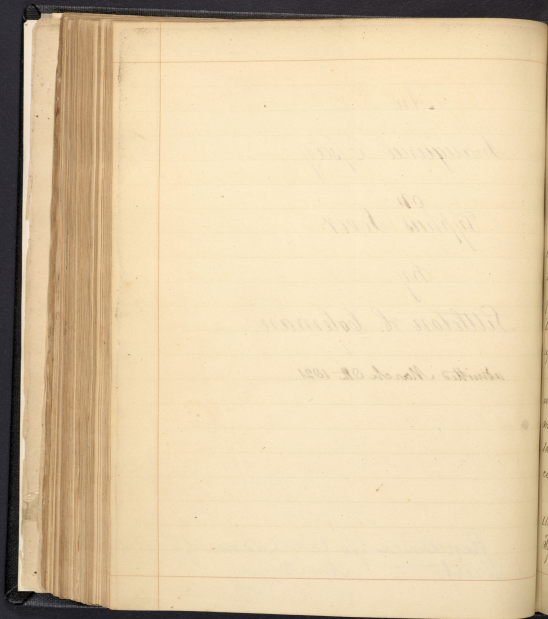
on  
Typhus Fever

By

Pittleton H. Coleman.

admitted March 8th 1821.

Providence { So. East corner of 8<sup>th</sup> & Mal  
mut Street. } Mrs Maynard





## Typhus Fever.

The term Typhus is derived from the Greek word *typos*, which signifies stupor, or heaviness, an affection which in a large majority of cases, is associated with this formidable shape of continued fever.

Typhus Fever has been divided by the best Nosological writers, into Typhus Atticus and Typhus Gravior; but this division cannot be of any practical utility. The latter form being nothing more than the first, with all its symptoms much augmented in force and violence; hence there appears to be no obvious reason for retaining such division.

It will be proper to add, that there is no material difference as to its nature, whether it be Idiopathic or Symptomatic; the symptoms are the same, demanding the same treatment, conducted on similar principles, and cured by the same remedies.

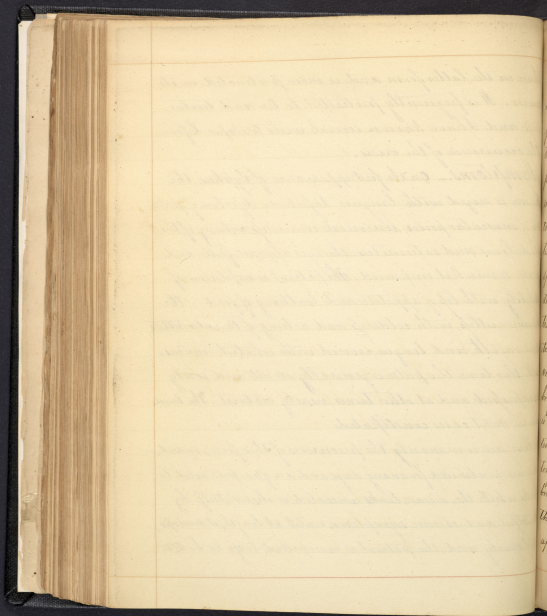
The only difference, which demands our attention, in the two forms mentioned by Nosological writers, is, that Typhus Atticus comes on with its symptoms much milder.

St. John's River

than in the latter form and is more protracted in its course. It is frequently protracted to ten and twelve days, and I have known several weeks to elapse before the occurrence of the crisis.

Symptoms.— On the first appearance of typhus, the person is seized with languor, lassitude, dejection of spirits, loss of muscular power, universal weariness, aching of the head, loins and extremities; the eyes appear full and vision somewhat impaired. The patient complains of debility, with loss of appetite and loathing of food. He becomes restless, with coldness and aching of the extremities, foul mouth and tongue covered with whitish mucus. At this time the pulse is generally small and easily compressed, and at other times nearly natural. The bowels are in most cases constipated.

These are commonly the precursors of this fever; indeed, they are continued for many days, and are often protracted to weeks, while the disease lurks concealed, or shows itself by doubtful, and obscure symptoms, until at length, it develops itself openly, and the patient is compelled to go to bed.

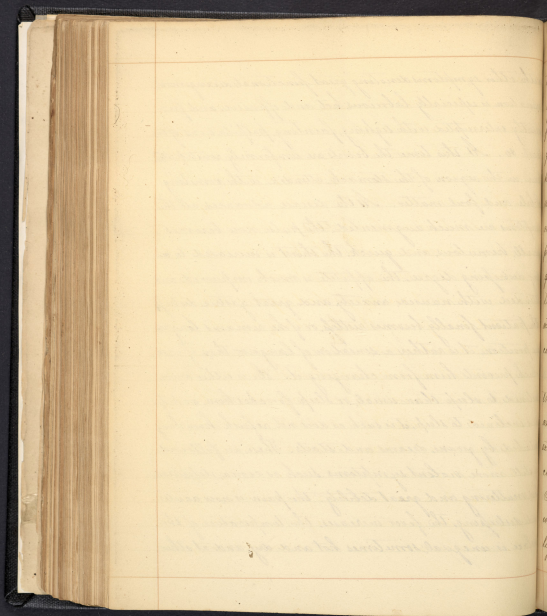


But Typhus Gravior is much more malignant and vehement in its onset, and rapid in its progress. As in the milder form of this disease, the patient is at first struck with sudden prostration of strength, in which the intellectual faculties fully participate. Even at this early stage, there is tenderness and soreness of the muscles, pains both acute and dull are felt throughout the head, back and extremities, with alternations of chills and flushes of heat. These symptoms are speedily followed by a well defined fever, and considerable determination to the head: which is indicated by the troublesome pulsations of the carotid and temporal arteries, tremor of the head, suffused countenance, dimness of vision, eyes wild and inflamed, and destitute of their brightness, cannot bear the light. At this time the head is intense, great determination to the head, and a constant tendency to delirium. Examined at this conjuncture, the tongue is found dry, hard, chopped and incrustated, with a brown matter; the gums and teeth are next covered with the same offensive matter, having at this time more the appearance of fur. The pulse becomes quick and corded



with other symptoms denoting great functional derangement, respiration is especially laborious, hot and offensive; and frequently interrupted with sighing, fainting, palpitations of the heart &c. At this time the bowels are uniformly constipated, pain in the region of the stomach, attended with vomiting of bile and foul matter. As the disease advances, all the symptoms are much augmented, the pulse now becomes small, tremulous, and quick, the thirst is increased to a very distressing degree, the appetite is much impaired and attended with nausea, anxiety and great gastric distress, the patient finally becomes restless, or if he remains long in one position, it is rather a sensation of languor than of ease, which prevents him from changing it. He is either more inclined to sleep than usual, or sleep forsakes him, and if he is inclined to sleep, it is such as does not refresh him: being disturbed by groans, dreams and starts. These are followed by still more violent symptoms, such as coma, delirium, low muttering and great debility: the pain is now acute and distressing, the fever increases, the temperature of the surface is unequal, sometimes hot and dry, and at other



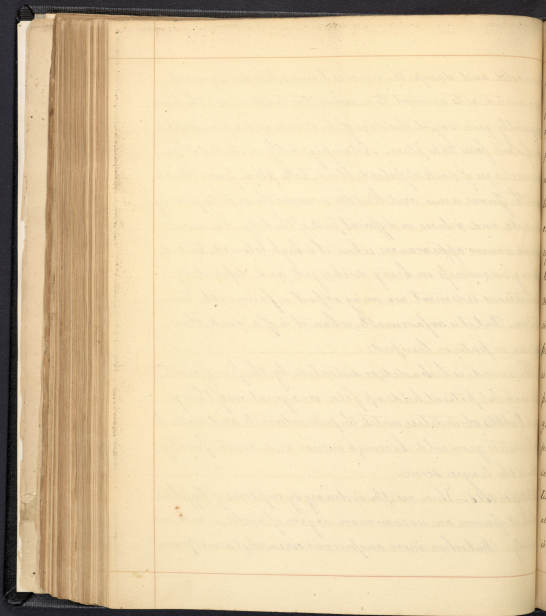




times cold and damp; the nervous tremors become so much aggravated, as to amount to a subultus tendinum: the bowels frequently give way, at this stage of the disease, and copious discharges of dark faeces take place. Not unfrequently in the last stage: hemorrhages of dark discoloured blood, take place, from the nose, mouth, Gums, anus and bladder or under the cuticle, forming macula and vibices, in different parts of the body. The urine presents various appearances, when it is high coloured, turbid, giving uneasiness on being discharged and depositing a stercoraceous sediment we may expect a favourable termination. But, it is unfavourable, when it is of a dark olive colour, or pale, or limpid.

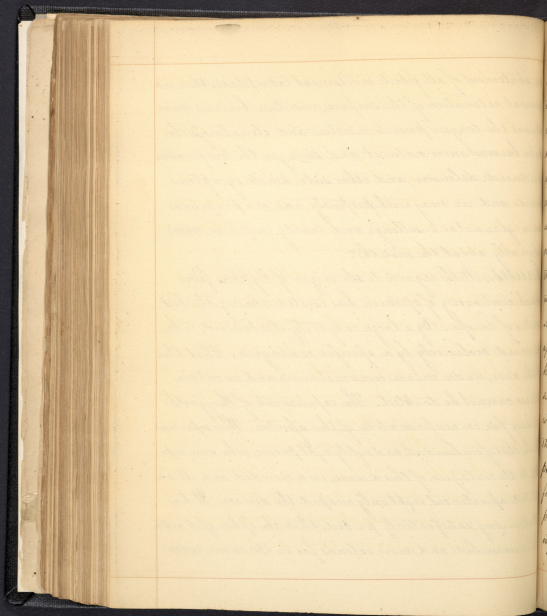
The mind is beclouded; or disturbed, by the fear of death, the wakeful patient holds up false imaginations of things and babbles absurdities, until the pulse intermits and sinks, the extremities grow cold, hiccough ensues and death finally closes the tragic scene.

Prognosis.—These are the ordinary symptoms of Syphilis, when it assumes an uncommon degree of violence and malignity. But, when more auspicious circumstances present

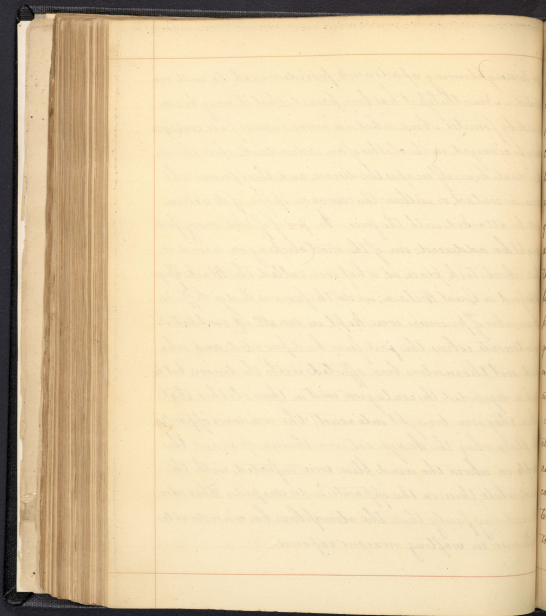


an abatement of all febrile excitement takes place; there is a general relaxation of the surface, moisture becomes more obvious, the tongue presents moisture and cleanliness, the pulse becomes more natural and stronger, the temperature is reduced, delirium and other subordinate symptoms subside, and we may with propriety add, as a propitious omen, glandular swellings, and scabby eruptions more especially about the mouth.

Causes.—With regard to the origin of Typhus fever, much controversy of opinion has existed among the best writers of Europe. By a large majority it is believed to be produced exclusively by a specific contagion. That this is the case, under certain circumstances and in certain places cannot be doubted. The experiments of Haygarth go very far in confirmation of this assertion. These experiments prove, that of one hundred and eighty eight persons, who were exposed to the contagion of this disease, in a crowded and ill ventilated apartment, eight only escaped the disease. It has also been very satisfactorily proved, that the sphere of its action is circumscribed, and never extends far in the same room.



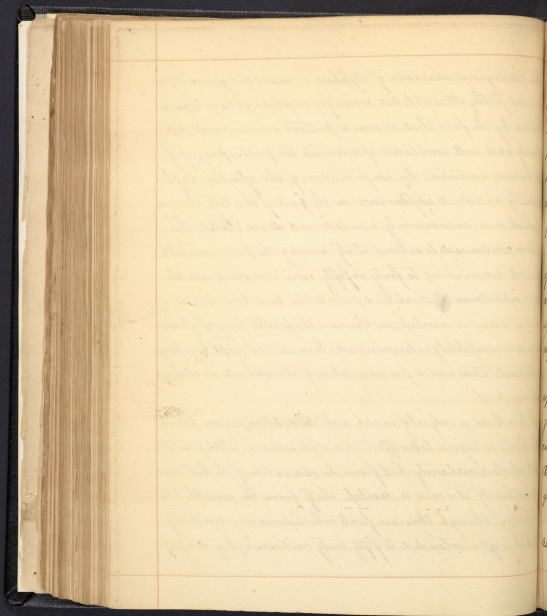
not to neighbouring apartments: provided each be well ven-  
tilated. Nevertheless, it has been proved, that it may be con-  
veyed by fomites. And what is a more curious fact, contagion  
may be conveyed in the clothes of an individual, while the in-  
dividual himself escapes the disease, and those persons who  
come in contact, or within the common sphere of its action  
will be attacked with the fever. In proof of this, many facts  
might be adduced; one of the most striking on record is,  
that which took place at, what was called the Black Ships  
at Oxford in Great Britain, under the famous Sudge Jeffries.  
A number of prisoners were kept in small ill ventilated  
apartments, where the jail fever had prevailed, and who  
had not themselves been affected with the disease; but to  
such a degree did the contagion exist in their clothes, that  
when they were brought into court (the windows opposite  
the place where the Sudge sat, were thrown open) and the  
people on whom the wind blew, were infected with the  
fever, while those on the opposite side escaped. This also  
proved very fairly, that the atmosphere has considerable  
influence in wafting noxious vapours.



The contagious character of Syphilis, is indebted generally to crowded filthy ill ventilated rooms for its propagation. This is proved by the fact, that so soon as patients are removed into cleanly and well ventilated apartments, the further progress of the disease is arrested. In confirmation of this assertion, Syphilis recently made its appearance in the jail of this City, the rooms of which were uncommonly crowded, and ill ventilated, the disease continued to extend itself among the prisoners, till the sick amounting to forty or fifty were removed into the large apartment, which had prior to this time been used, as a place of religious worship: in this case the further progress of contagion was completely exterminated: because, the room was large well ventilated, and a free circulation of atmospheric air throughout every part.

It has been a subject of much dispute, as to the precise period at which contagion takes effect, and still remains undetermined, as to absolute certainty: but from the observation of the best medical authority, it is said to develop itself from the seventh to the tenth day, though there are facts which prove very decidedly that it is often extended to fifty sixty and even eighty days.







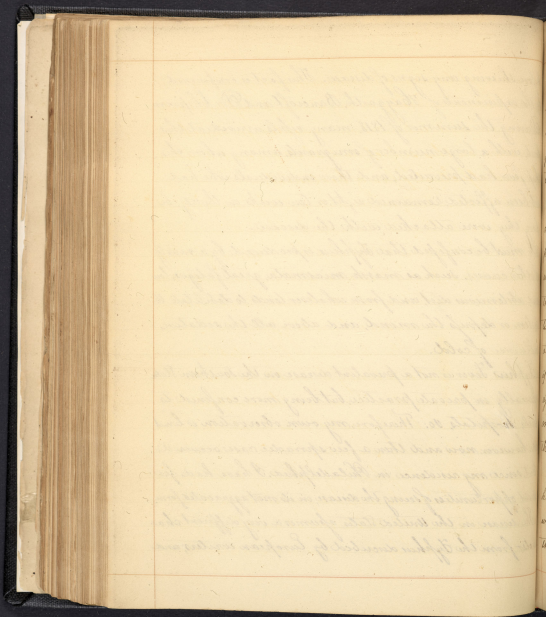
before showing any signs of disease. This fact is confirmed by the experiments of Haggart, Bancroft and Dr. Chapman. During the summer of 1818, many vessels arrived at this port, with a large number of emigrants, among whom the ship fever had prevailed, and those individuals who had not been affected, remained eight or ten weeks in the City, before they were attacked with the disease.

It must be confessed that Typhus is produced by a variety of other causes, such as miasmata, great fatigue, low and abstemious diet, and from whatever tends to debilitate the system or depress the mind, and above all the sedative influence of cold.

Typhus Fever is not a prevalent disease in the Southern States, especially in private practice, but being more confined to jails, hospitals, &c. Therefore, my own observation is limited; however, now and then a few sporadic cases occurred.

But, since my residence in Philadelphia, I have had frequent opportunities of seeing the disease, in its most aggravated form.

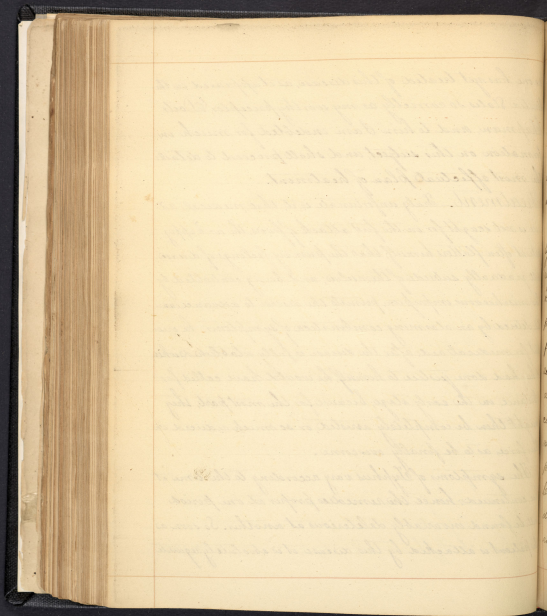
The disease in the United States, assumes a very different character from the Typhus described by European writers, and



no one has yet treated of this disease, as it appeared in the United States, so correctly as my worthy preceptor, Doct. Chapman, and to him I am indebted for much information on this subject, and shall proceed to detail the most effectual plan of treatment.

Treatment.—Truly unfortunate is it, that medical advice is not sought for on the first attack of fever, the unhappy patient often flatters himself, that the primary feelings of disease will gradually subside of themselves; and being controlled by this mischievous impression, permits the disease to advance, until, deterred by an alarming combination of symptoms, he cries out for medical aid, after the disease is fully established, when if he had done justice to himself, he would have called for assistance in the early stage, because, for the most part, they might then be completely arrested, or so much reduced in their force, as to be finally overcome.

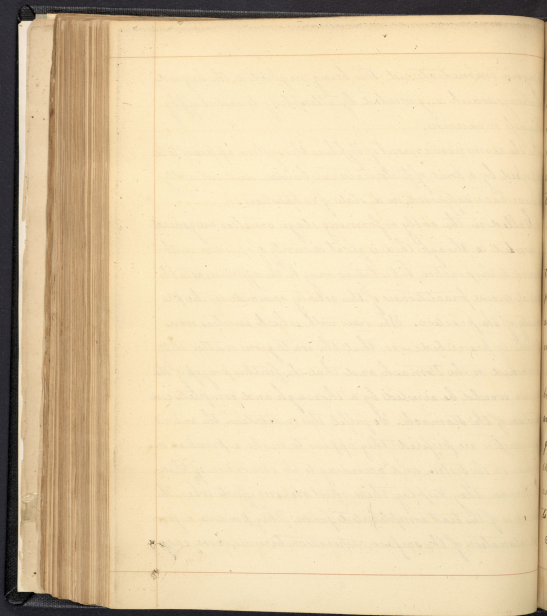
The symptoms of Typhus vary according to the time it has continued; hence the remedies proper at one period will be found invariably deleterious at another. So soon as the patient is attacked by this disease, it is absolutely requisite,



to enjoin immediate rest, this being neglected, the hazard is always much augmented, by attempting to cast it off by business or exercise.

In the commencement of Syphilis, the system appears to be depressed, by a kind of preternatural burden, and not really as some have supposed, in a state of exhaustion.

Called in the early or forming stage, emetics are generally resorted to, though there is great diversity of opinion with regard to this practice, but, whatever may be the difference, as to the ordinal views, practitioners of this country coincide in the propriety of the practice. The view with which emetics were formerly prescribed, was, that the contagious matter still remained in the stomach, and that the further progress of the disease would be arrested by a thorough and complete evacuation of the stomach. To fulfil this indication, the antimonial emetics are preferred; they appear to make a peculiar impression on the system, and according to the observation of Dr. Schepman, they display their most obvious effects when the disease is of the least complicated form; they produce a general relaxation of the surface, respiration becomes more easy,

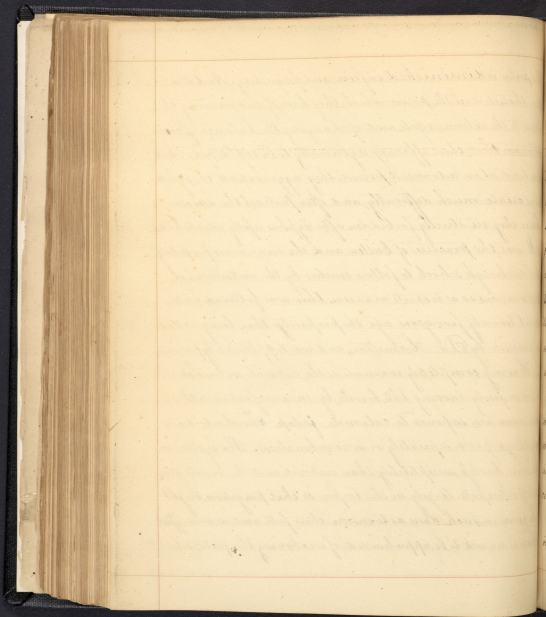


the pulse is diminished in force and frequency. And it is said that, it is on the power which they have of determining the blood to the extreme vessels, and of changing the balance of circulation, that their efficacy is generally to be explained. But, exhibited at an advanced period, they aggravate all the symptoms, create much difficulty, and often protract the disease, hence they are strictly forbidden after Typhus is fully established.

It was the practice of Cullen and the numerous pupils of the Edinburgh school, to follow emetics by the antimonial preparations, so as to excite nausea. This was followed until about twenty five years ago, the propriety, then being called in question by Dr. Hamilton, and was supplanted by purgation.

Having completely evacuated the stomach, no time should be lost in freely moving the bowels, by means of active cathartics, and none are superior to calomel, jalap, rhubarb and gamboge, given separately or in combination. The system at this time has less susceptibility than natural, and the bowels generally participate largely in this torpor, so that purgatives, ought to be given in such doses, as to ensure their full and desired effect. There is no risk to be apprehended, of weakening the patient.





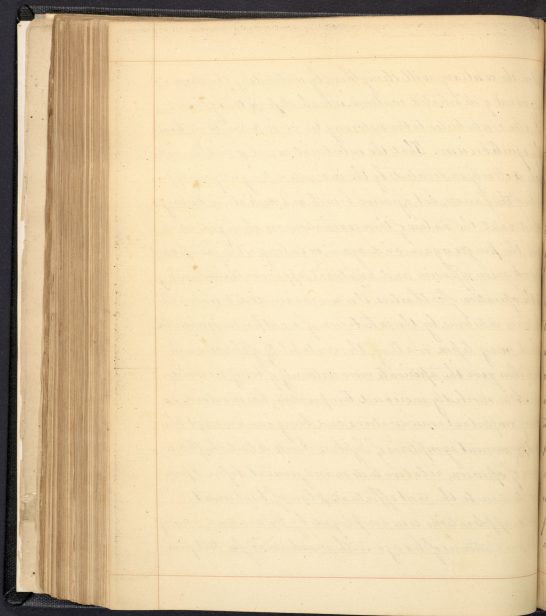


but on the contrary will strengthen, by unloading the alimentary canal of its vitiated contents, which depress the system.

It also contributes to the restoring the circulation to its healthy equilibrium. That the intestinal canal is in this condition, is clearly indicated by the incrustated tongue, foul appearance of the fauces, hot offensive breath, and dark alvine discharges. And until the nature of these evacuations are changed, we repeat the purges again and again, or so long as the face presents a dark green offensive and unnatural appearance. As auxiliary to the operation of cathartics, it is recommended to evacuate the lower intestines, by the exhibition of a cathartic enemata, which may lessen or allay, the irritability of the stomach, and thus give the aperients, more certainty of being retained.

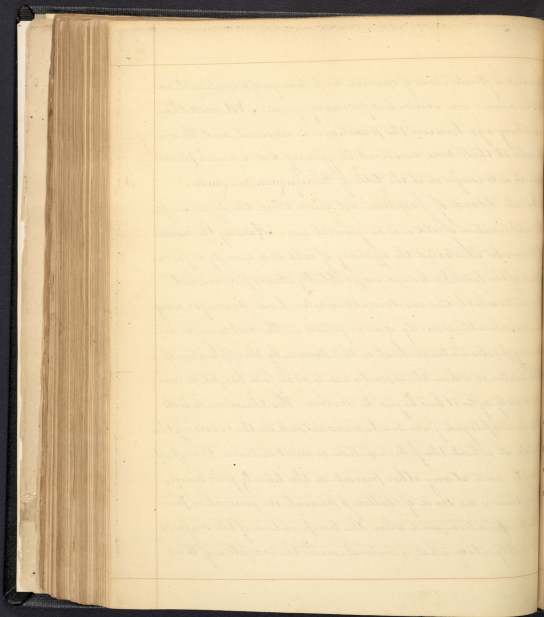
As a morbidly increased temperature, has involved so many important considerations, and being one amongst the most prominent symptoms of Typhus, I will detail the fluctuations of opinion, relative to its management, before I proceed to describe the most effectual plan of treatment.

Blood applications were employed by Celsus and many other practitioners of his age with much success. But, from



the various fluctuations of opinion and changes of practice, etc. use in this disease, was overlooked for many years. Not more than a century ago, however, the practice was renewed, and the writer who at that time discovered its efficacy, was so much pleased with it, as to confer on it, the title of *Fibrifugum magnum*.

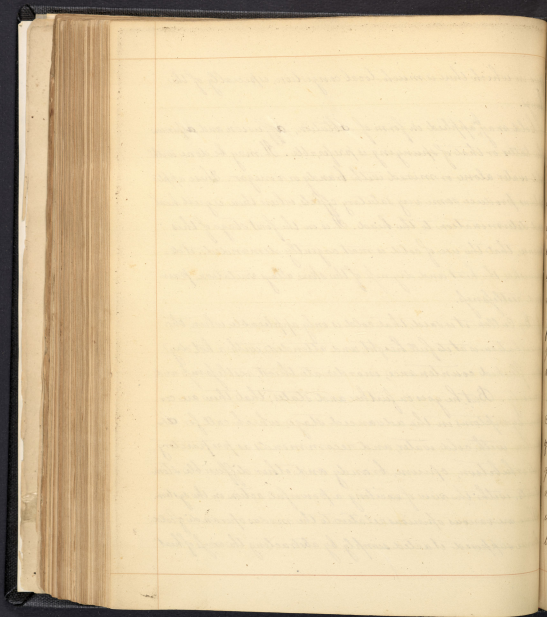
In the Island of Jamaica not more than thirty years ago, the application of cold was in general use. Among the names of those who illustrated the efficacy of cold, as a remedy in fever, that of the late Dr Currie, undoubtedly stands preeminent. The rules which this inestimable writer, laid down for using this invaluable remedy were as follow: "The best time for reducing preternatural heat in this disease, by the application of cold water, is, when the exacerbation is at its full height, or immediately after it has begun to decline. He, therefore, directs it to be employed from six to nine o'clock in the evening, the period at which the febrile action is most intense; though, it may be used at any other period in the twenty four hours, when there is no sense of chillings present, no general or profuse perspiration, and when the temperature of the surface is steadily above what is natural, with the exception of those



cases in which there is much local congestion, especially of the Lungs.

Cold may be applied in form of ablation, affusion and aspersion: the latter or that of spunging is preferable. It may be done with cold water alone or mixed with brandy or vinegar. These applications produce some very salutary effects, when there is great heat and determination to the head. It is in the first stage of this disease, that the use of cold is most urgently demanded: it diminishes, the heat and dryness of the skin, allays irritation, pain and restlessness.

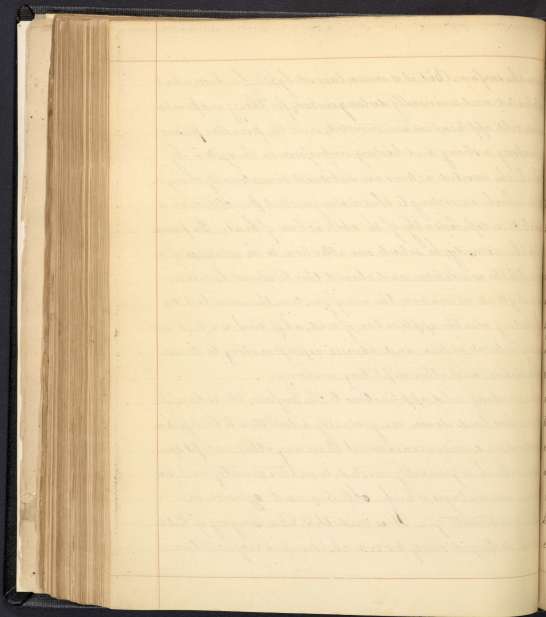
By Cullen it is said, that cold is only applicable, when the exacerbation is at its full height, and attended, with a hot, dry skin, flushed countenance, inordinate thirst, restlessness and anxiety. But he goes on further and states, that there are certain symptoms in the advanced stage, which call for aspersion with cold water, and recommends, as preparatory to its exhibition, opium, brandy and other diffusible stimulants, with the view of exciting a powerful action in the system. There are various opinions relative to the modus operandi of cold. Some suppose it acted simply by abstracting the vessels of heat



from the surface. But, it is maintained by Dr. Jackson, who is celebrated and eminently distinguished, for theory and practice that, cold applications are invested with the peculiar power of making a strong and lasting impression on the system: by which, the morbid actions are subdued or materially changed, and which according to this distinguished practitioner, is effected independently of the abstraction of heat. In pursuing this remedy, he solicits our attention, to the evidence of a susceptible condition, and should this be absent, he recommends for its restoration, the use of friction, the warm bath &c. forbidding also the application of cold, when there is a high degree of arterial action, and advises, as preparatory to its use, venesection and other depletory measures.

In making cold applications to the surface, the rules which Currie has laid down, are generally, admitted to be less hazardous and more convenient than any other except spunging; which is generally resorted to in this country and has many advantages which oblation and effusion are wholly destitute of. It is said that Dr. Gregory of Edinburgh destroyed one of his own children (for a coryza) (tena)





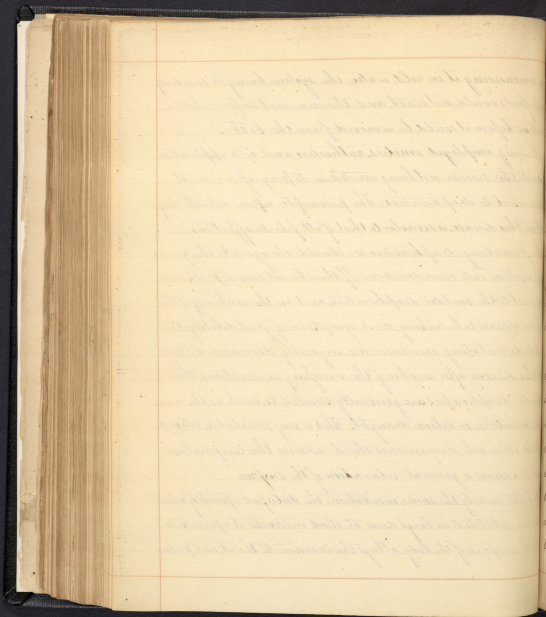


by immersing it in cold water, the system being so suddenly depressed, could not react, and the innocent sufferer fell a victim before it could be removed from the bath.

Having employed emetics, cathartics and cold applications, and the disease not being arrested in its progress, we must then resort to diaphoretics. The principle upon which they act in this disease, is similar to that of all febrile affections.

In prescribing diaphoretics we should always take the general system into consideration. If there be not much prostration, we resort to the milder diaphoretics, and on the contrary, if the system appears to be sinking, and symptoms of great debility, the most stimulating remedies are urgently demanded. But, in this disease after making the necessary evacuations, the milder diaphoretics are generally resorted to, such as the nux-  
omatal mixture, or saline draught. This is very palatable, acts well on the stomach, diminishes thirst, reduces the temperature and produces a general relaxation of the surface.

To fulfil nearly the same indication, the dulcified spirits of nitre has been exhibited in large doses, at short intervals: it appears to cool the surface of the body, allays the inordinate thirst, and produces

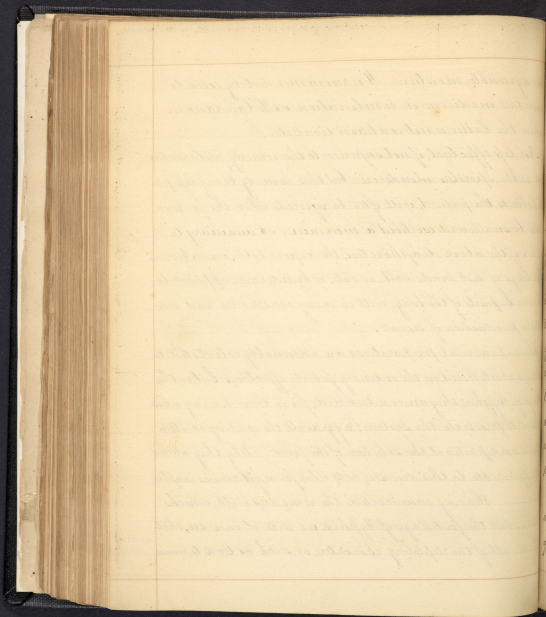


an agreeable moisture. It is recommended by some to give this medicine in combination with laudanum when the latter is not contraindicated.

Not less effectual, if not superior to the remedy just mentioned, is the *Spiritus mindereri*: but this remedy being less palatable to the patient, will often be rejected, when the former will be swallowed without a murmur. As auxiliary to either of the above diaphoretics, the vapour bath, warm beverages, bags of hot sand, salt, or oats, or boiled corn, applied to different parts of the body, will in many cases, hasten and aid in the production of sweat.

The antimonial preparations are admirably calculated to reduce excitement, in the ordinary febrile affections: but in this stage of Syphilis, they are condemned, from their having a tendency to prostrate the system, aggravate the existing excitement, and protract the solution of the fever. Why they are not as applicable to this disease, as to other fevers, yet remains inexplicable.

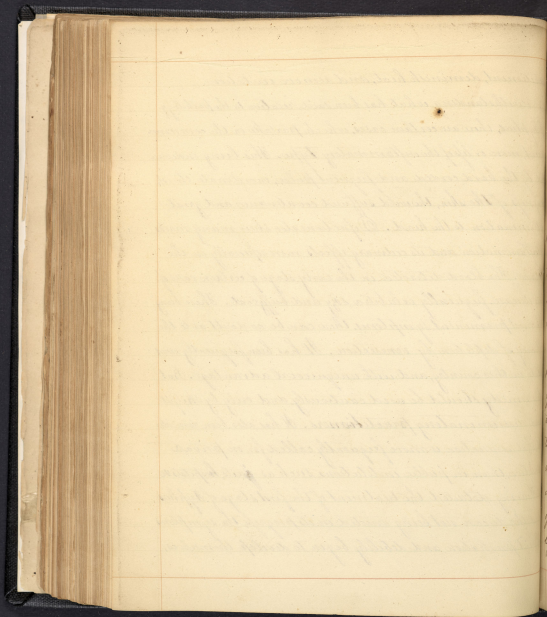
Having enumerated the remedies with which we combat the first stage of Syphilis, we will at once see, that they are all of the depleting character, or such as tend to reduce



excitement, diminish heat, and remove irritation.

Notwithstanding what has been said, relative to the pathology of Typhus, there are certain cases, which partake in the commonment, more or less of the inflammatory Type. This being indicated by the hard corded and frequent pulse, inordinate thirst, dryness of the skin, the wild suffused countenance and great determination to the head. Dissections also shew many marks of inflammation and its ordinary effects, more especially in the brain. The blood detached in the early stage of certain cases of this disease, frequently exhibits a size and buff coat. These being the most prominent symptoms, there can be no doubt as to the efficacy of depletion by venesection. It has been frequently resorted to in this country, and with unequivocal advantage. But, this remedy should be used cautiously, and only by skilful and discriminating practitioners. It has also been remarked, that venesection is more frequently called for in private practice, than in public institutions, such as *asyls, hospitals &c.*

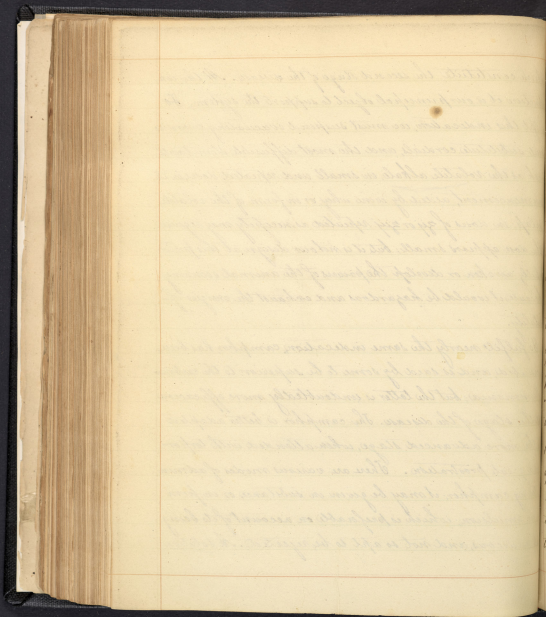
Having detailed the treatment of the first stage of Typhus and the disease not being arrested in its progress, the symptoms of great prostration and debility begin to develop themselves;



which constitute the second stage of the disease. At this conjuncture it is our principal object to support the system. To fulfil this indication, we must suspend evacuating remedies and substitute cordials, and the most diffusible stimulants; such as the volatile alkali, in small and repeated doses, in the commencement, aided by wine whey or in form of the volatile jelap: in doses of  $\text{ʒij}$  or  $\text{ʒij}$  repeated as necessity may require. The dose appears small; but it is not our design at this period to fully awaken or develop the powers of the animal economy because, it would be hazardous and exhaust the energies of vitality.

To fulfil nearly the same indications, camphor, has been prescribed, and is said by some to be superior to the carbonate of ammonia; but the latter is undoubtedly more efficacious at this stage of the disease. The camphor is better adapted to the more advanced stage, when attended with torpor and great prostration. There are various modes of administering camphor: it may be given in substance or in form of an emulsion; which is preferable on account of its being less nauseous, and not so apt to be rejected. A solution



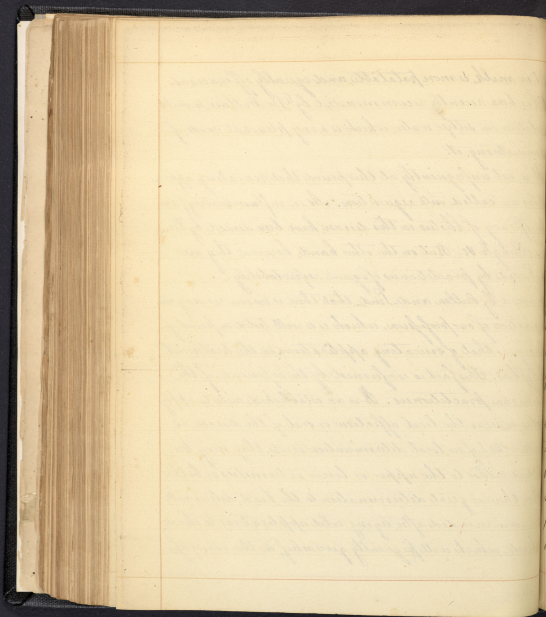


of it in milk, is more palatable, and equally efficacious. It has been recently recommended by Dr. Wallace, to make a solution in seltzer water, which is a very pleasant mode of administering it.

It is not unfrequently at this period that vesicating applications are called into requisition. As in inflammatory fever, the efficacy of blisters in this disease, have been denied by Fordyce, Bringle &c. But on the other hand, however, they are sanctioned by practitioners of equal respectability.

It is said by Cullen and Lind, that there is no one remedy in the practice of our profession, which is so well tested in point of efficacy, as that of vesicating applications in the treatment of typhus. This fact is confirmed by the experience of the American practitioners. It is an established rule to apply blisters as near the local affection or seat of the disease as possible. But, if no local determination exists, they may be applied either to the upper or lower extremities or both.

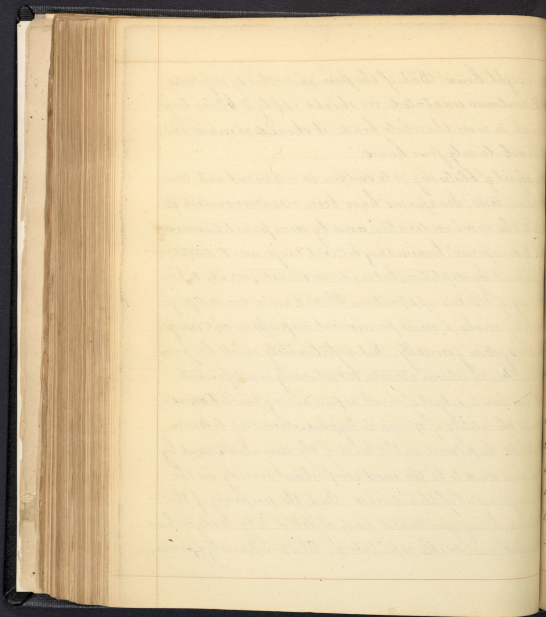
When there is great determination to the head delirium &c it is recommended after trying cold applications, to shave the head, which will frequently give relief, in the course of



six or eight hours. But, if the pain and other symptoms still continue unabated, we should apply a blister large enough to cover the whole head: it should remain on at least twenty four hours.

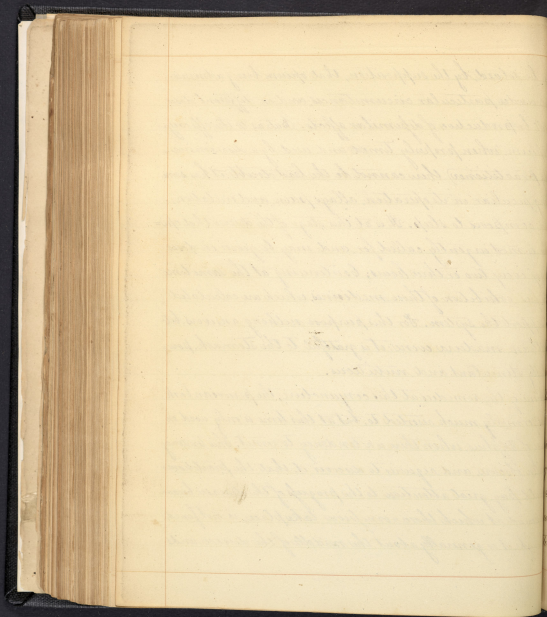
The object of blistering is to sustain excitement, and tone of the system. Sinapisms have been recommended to fulfil the same indication, and by some practitioners are said to be superior: because they believed the former to debilitate the patient by depletion, but is idle in the extreme. As to the efficacy of the two applications, blisters have a decided preference, they make a more permanent impression and invigorate the system generally. But, unfortunately in all low forms of fever, blisters seldom associate, but act merely as rubefacients.

It has been a subject of much dispute among practitioners, as regards the utility of opium in Typhus. According to Brown it should be placed at the head of the stimulants, and by him was said to be the most important remedy in the management of this disease. But, the propriety of the practice, being questioned and objected to by Fordyce, has since lost considerable reputation. This contrariety of practice



can be solved, by the supposition, that opium being administered under particular circumstances, and in different doses, will be productive of dissimilar effects. But as to the efficacy of opium, (when properly timed and used by a discriminating practitioner) there cannot be the least doubt: it has something peculiar in its operation, allays pain and irritation, and composes to sleep. It is at this stage of the disease that opium is most urgently called for, and may be given in doses of grj every two or three hours; continuing at the same time the free exhibition of those medicines, which are calculated to support the system. For this purpose nothing answers better than madeira wine: it is grateful to the stomach, powerfully stimulant and nutritious.

As one of the remedies at this conjuncture, the peruvian bark was formerly much resorted to, but at this time is only used in cases of dysphus, when there is a tendency to remit. This tendency is often obscure, and requires to discover it, that the practitioner should pay great attention to the progress of the disease: because the period at which these remissions take place, is not fixed, though it is generally about the middle of the disease, and



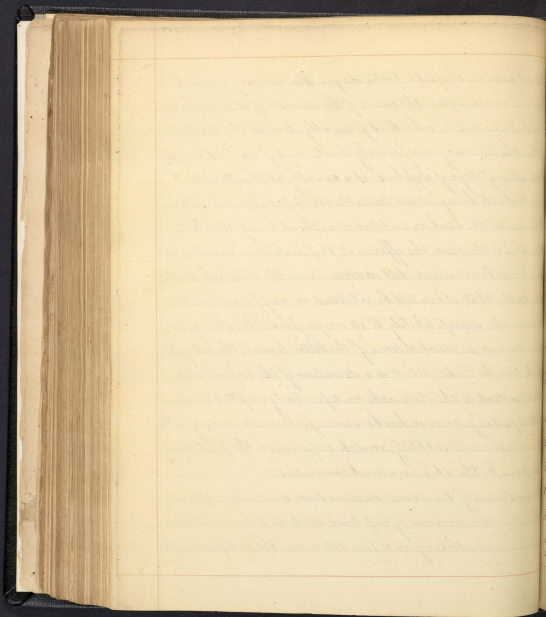


may seldom in the first or latter stage. The tendency to remit depends much upon the cause of the disease: if it arises from marsh miasmata: which it generally does in the limited states. The tendency uniformly exists, and if the bark is applicable at any stage of Typhus, it is exactly at this period.

The stomach being in an irritable condition, we can seldom administer the bark in substance without being rejected. When this is the case, the officinal preparations or decoction, will sometimes be retained: but in some cases, the stomach is either so irritable, that it cannot be retained in any form whatever, or loses all susceptibility to its impression. We then give castor oil, or resort to some of the better tonics: the best of which can be substituted is a decoction of the *Serpentaria*, which is cordial to the stomach, and peculiarly adapted to this disease.

Still failing, arsenic has become a fashionable remedy with some: but it is undoubtedly, much inferior, in the treatment of Typhus, to the above named remedies.

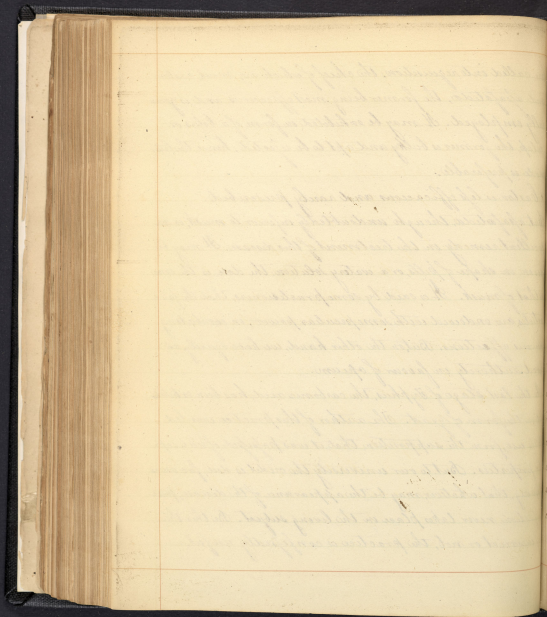
To meet nearly the same indication, and more especially when there are nervous symptoms, such as tremors, subultus tendinum, muttering and low delirium: the antispasmodics



are called into requisition, the chief of which are, musk, castor and asafetida, the former being most efficacious, and is generally employed. It may be exhibited in form of a bolus or pilule, the former is bulky and apt to be rejected; hence the latter mode is preferable.

Castor is less efficacious and rarely prescribed. But, asafetida, though undoubtedly inferior to musk, is an excellent remedy in the treatment of this disease. It may be given in shape of pills, or a watery solution. The dose is the same as that of musk. It is said by some practitioners, that the fœtal articles, are endowed with some peculiar power, in combating nervous affections. But, on the other hand, we have equally, as good authority in favour of opium.

In the last stage of Syphilis, the carbonic acid, has been exhibited in the form of yeast. The author of this practice was led to its use, from the supposition, that it was possessed of antiseptic properties. But, to our university the credit is due, for ascertaining, that whatever, may be the appearance of the disease, putrefaction, never takes place in the living subject. Be this theory incorrect or not, the practice is confessedly useful.

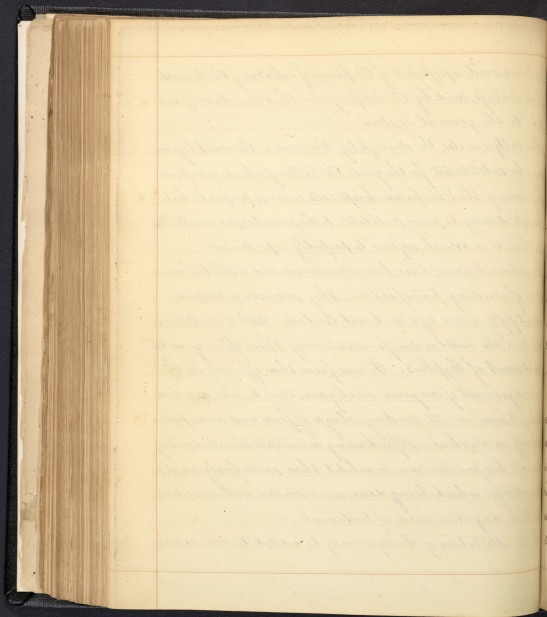


carbonic acid is possessed of the power of relieving the stomach of its distress, and by the impression thus made, imparts tone to the general system.

The seltzer water, the draught of Rivierius, or the malt liquor may be substituted for the gas; the latter of which is preferable. In some of the European hospitals cider is preferred; but though it may be more palatable to the patient or puerina teacher, it is much inferior to perfectly ripe porter.

The mineral acids have been recommended with the same view of arresting putrefaction: They were administered about fifty years ago in Great Britain. But to Sir William Fordyce the credit is due, for establishing their efficacy in the treatment of Typhus. It was from their efficacy in the management of angina maligna, that he was induced to try them in all sinking stages of fever, and more particularly in typhus. After having evacuated the alimentary canal, his practice was, to exhibit those acids freely and repeatedly; which being done, was attended with more success, than any other mode of treatment.

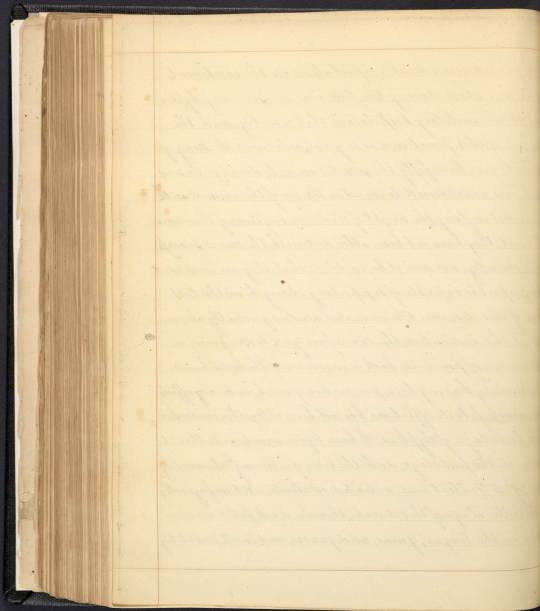
To the attestations of Fordyce may be added, that the mineral



acids gained considerable reputation on the continent of Europe. And during the late war in Germany, Syphilis ravaged the military hospitals in that country, and the success of Richter's practice, was so great, as to cause the King of Prussia, to give him fifty thousand crowns, to divulge the secret which was ascertained to consist in the use of the mineral acids. Notwithstanding the weight of evidence in favour of their employment, they have not been attended with the same success in this country; nor can it be credited, that they are invested with properties, capable of supporting strength in the last stage of this disease. The muriatic acid is generally chosen to fulfil this indication, the dose is from grs. x to xv. given in a decoction of peruvian bark or some one of the bitter tonics.

Mercury having been productive of such salutary effects in common febrile affections, has not been, altogether, overlooked in the last stage of Syphilis. I have before mentioned, that it is given in the first stage, with the view of relieving alimentary canal, of its feculent and vitiated contents. Not unfrequently in the latter stage of this disease, there are dark fætid accumulations on the tongue, gums, and fauces, and in all probability

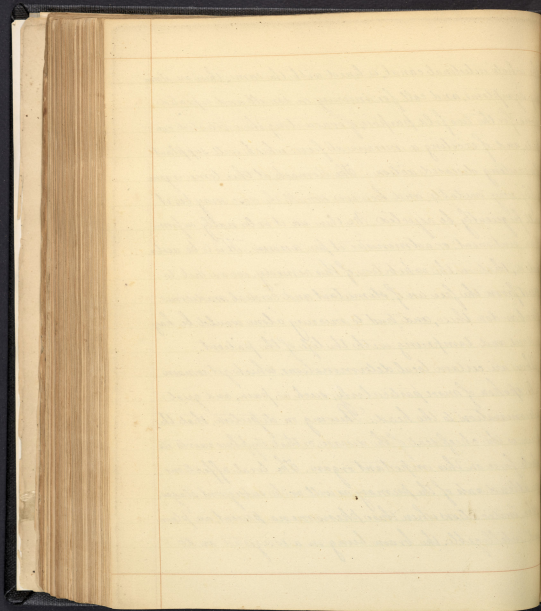




the whole intestinal canal, is lined with the same; these are alarming symptoms, and call for mercury in small and repeated doses: for the twofold purpose, of evacuating those vitiated contents, and of exciting a mercurial fever: which will supplant the existing diseased action. The stomach at this time is generally very irritable, and however small the dose may be, it will frequently be rejected. We then use it externally in form of an ointment, or administer it per anum. It is to be recollected, that in the exhibition of this remedy, we are not to desist from the free use of stimulant and cordial medicines. To abandon these, and trust to mercury alone would be hazardous, and tampering with the life of the patient.

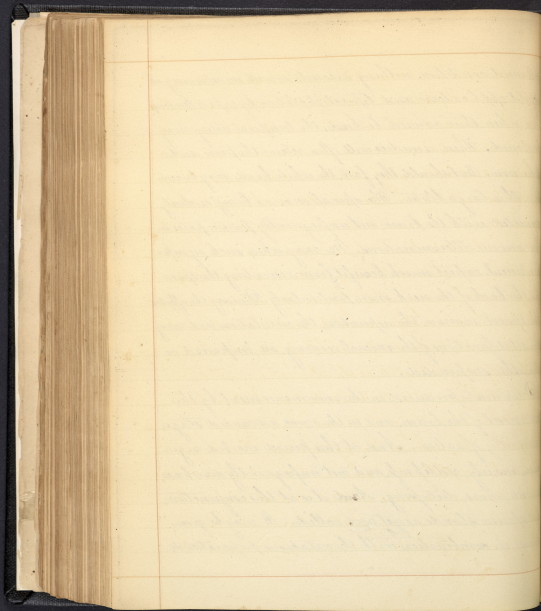
There are certain local determinations, which yet remain to be spoken of more particularly, such as, pain, and great determination to the head: shewing on dissection, that the brain is the chief seat of the disease, or that Syphilis exerts its whole force on this important organ. The local affections are attendants of the primary, as well as the subsequent stages.

The indications when these phenomena present, are plain and intelligible, the brain being in a congested and



inflamed condition, nothing succeeds so well in relieving it, as cold applications and topical depletion, by cups or leeches, and when these cannot be had, the temporal artery may be opened. These remedies will often relieve the pain and delirium. But should they fail, the whole head may be covered with a large blister. The spinal marrow being so closely connected with the brain, not unfrequently participates in their nervous determinations. We may, when such symptoms present, expect much benefit from vesicating the spine and the back of the neck more particularly. During the affections of the spinal marrow, the respiration, the circulation, and many other vital functions of the animal economy, are impaired, or altogether suspended.

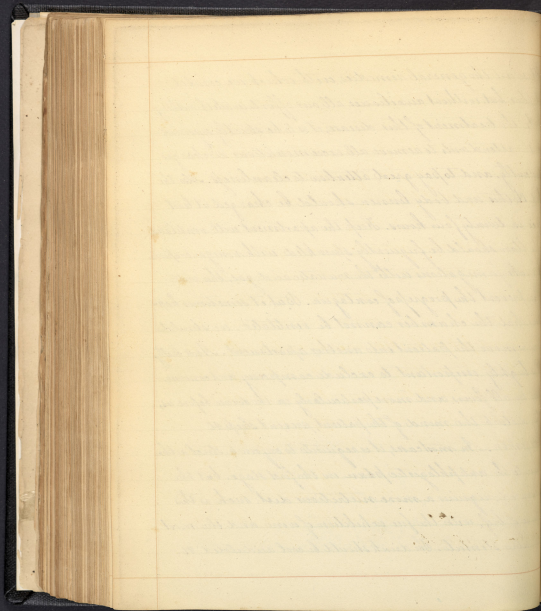
Delirium is produced in the commencement by the excitement of the brain, and in the more advanced stage, by debility of action. And at this period morbid vigilance, anxiety, restlessness, and not unfrequently diarrhoea, become more distressing. And it is at this conjuncture, that opium stands, as yet, unrivalled. It may be given alone, or in combination with the extract of preparation &c.



These are the general remedies, with which we combat Typhus, but, without auxiliaries, all our efforts availeth nothing.

In the treatment of this disease, it is to be strictly enjoined on the attendants to remove all excrementitious discharges instantly, and to pay great attention to cleanliness. Also, the bed clothes and body linen should be changed at least once in twenty four hours. Keep the apartment well ventilated; the floor should be frequently sprinkled with vinegar, or spirits, or make fumigations with the muriatic acid gas, this will often prevent the progress of contagion. But, if sometimes happens, that the chamber cannot be ventilated; we should then remove the patient into another apartment. And lastly, it is highly important to exclude company and conversation in all fevers, and more particularly in the disease before us; they disturb the mind of the patient, prevent sleep &c.

Regimen.—In most cases, it is requisite to enjoy a strict abstinence to the antiphlogistic plan in the first stage; but the advanced, requires a more nutritious diet; such as the essence of beef; with the free exhibition of wine and the most diffusible stimuli. The drink should be cool acidulated. &c.



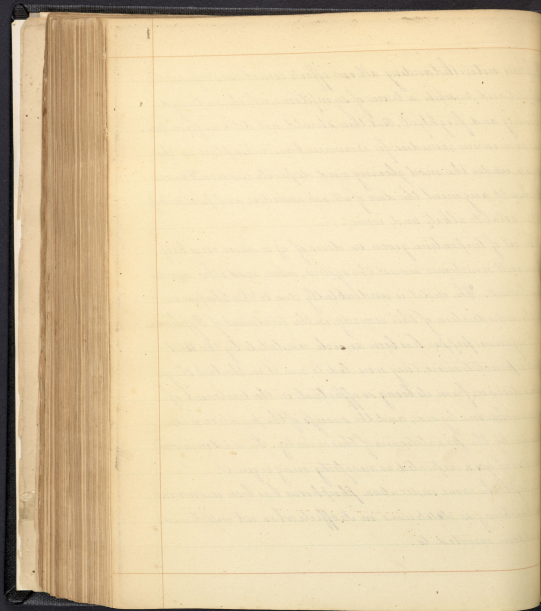


Typhus notwithstanding all our efforts, sometimes refuses to submit, and presents a train of symptoms, which are truly alarming and frightful. But, these should not deter us from perseverance in our remedies; for recoveries have taken place in this disease, under the most gloomy and desperate circumstances. We should augment the dose of all our remedies, and particularly of the volatile alkali and wine.

The oil of turpentine, given in doses of  $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$  or more every half hour, will sometimes arouse the system, when most other remedies have failed. The credit is undoubtedly due to Dr. Chapman for the introduction of this remedy, in the treatment of Typhus.

Cayenne pepper has been much resorted to by the West India practitioners; they were led to use it in the last stage of this disease, from its being so effectual in the treatment of cynanche maligna, and the success of the practice is confirmed by the practitioners of this country. It is administered in doses of  $\mathfrak{gr}\mathfrak{x}$ , repeated as necessity may require.

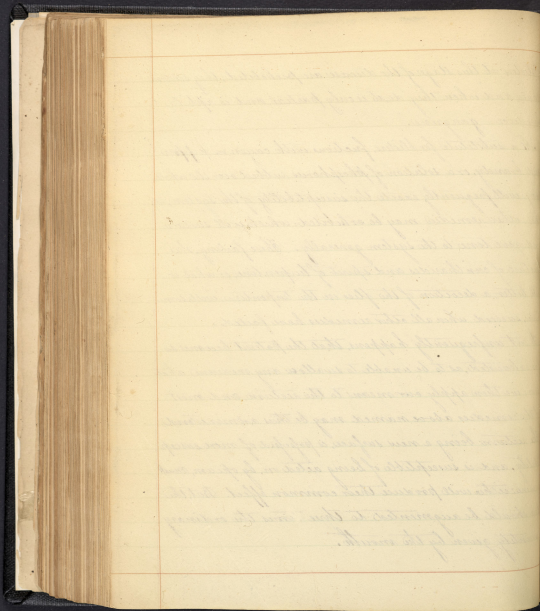
To fulfil the same indication phosphorus has been recommended; but, being so deleterious in its effects, when not well timed, is seldom resorted to.



Blisters at this stage of the disease are prohibited; they seldom  
succeed, and when they do, it is only partial, and is apt to  
produce gangrene.

As a substitute for blisters, frictions with cayenne pepper  
and brandy, or a solution of phosphorus rubbed over the whole  
body, will frequently excite the susceptibility of the system, so  
that, other remedies may be exhibited: which will sustain  
and give tone to the system generally. These failing, the  
uncture of camphor and spirit of turpentine, or what is  
still better, a decoction of the flies in the turpentine, will, some-  
times, succeed when all other remedies have failed.

It not unfrequently happens, that the patient becomes so  
far exhausted, as to be unable to swallow any medicine what-  
ever; we then apply our means to the rectum, and most  
of the remedies above named may be thus administered.  
The rectum being a new surface, is possessed of more suscep-  
tibility, and is susceptible of being acted on, by opium, muck  
or wine: either will produce their common effect. But, the  
dose should be augmented to three times the ordinary  
quantity given by the mouth.



Having now detailed the most approved plan of treating  
this disease, as it appears in the United States. I can only  
recommend, perseverance in all the remedies, as the most effec-  
tual means of substituting healthy for diseased action.

Let the symptoms be ever so alarming and heinous,  
we must not despair; but go on increasing the dose of all our  
remedies: by which means, the lives of many are saved.

